

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 6-13, and 15-39 are pending in the application, with Claims 1-3, 5, and 14 cancelled and Claims 4, 6-13, 15-17, 19-24, and 26-39 amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-4 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamashita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,159,586); Claims 16-39 were allowed; and Claims 5-12, 14 and 15 were also indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of the allowable subject matter.

Applicants traverse the rejection of Claims 1-4 and 13. However, to place the allowed claims in condition for allowance, Claims 1-3 are cancelled without prejudice and Claims 4 and 13 are amended to recite the allowable features of Claims 5 and 14. Claims 16-17, 19-24, and 26-39 have been amended to address cosmetic matters of form. No new matter is added.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Bradley D. Lytle  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 40,073  
Michael E. Monaco  
Registration No. 52,041

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

I:\ATTY\MM\AMENDMENT\6541\212310.AM.DUE MARCH 8..DOC